



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Wildlife Division

Natural History Survey – Natural Diversity Data Base

79 Elm Street, 6th Floor

Hartford, CT 06106-5127

May 23, 2013

Daniel Hageman
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
72 Cedar Street
Hartford, CT 06106
dhageman@fhiplan.com

NDDB Determination No: 201302510

Project: Runway Safety Area improvements and realignment of Route 113; Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport; 1000 Great Meadow Drive; Stratford, CT

Dear Daniel Hageman,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) maps and files regarding the area delineated on the map provided for the proposed Runway Safety Area improvements at the Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport (BDR) and the realignment of Route 113 in Stratford, Connecticut. According to our records and to recent biological surveys, multiple State-listed species [Sec. 26-306] have been documented at BDR and in the immediate vicinity (see attached table for species list).

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and the City of Bridgeport have been in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) throughout the project design process.

Through the implementation of avoidance measures and best management practices, permanent impacts will be avoided to all State-listed species except for the State Endangered **Saltpond grass (*Leptochloa fusca ssp. fascicularis*)**. It has been determined that the realignment of State Route 113 will result in unavoidable, direct, and permanent impacts to two sub-populations of this State Endangered plant species.

To ensure the recovery of the Saltpond grass sub-populations, a mitigation plan has been developed detailing (1) the creation of new suitable habitat, (2) the translocation of soil from the existing sub-population sites to the mitigation areas, (3) the collection of Saltpond grass seed for establishment within the mitigation areas, and (4) post-construction monitoring.


The proposed mitigation plan has been approved by the CTDEEP and is currently awaiting approval from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM). This “incidental take” consultation with OPM is required under the Connecticut Endangered Species Act [Sec. 26-310 (d)].

For information regarding State-listed plant species, please contact Nelson DeBarros (860-424-3585; nelson.debarros@ct.gov). For information regarding State-listed wildlife, please contact Jenny Dickson (860-675-8130; jenny.dickson@ct.gov).

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Natural Resources and cooperating units of DEEP, private conservation groups, and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have any questions (nelson.debarros@ct.gov; 860-424-3585). Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base and continuing to work with us to protect State-listed species.

Sincerely,


Nelson B. DeBarros
Botanist/Ecologist

May 23, 2013

State-listed species at the Igor I. Sikorsky Memorial Airport (BDR) in Stratford, CT

based on Connecticut Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) data and biological surveys conducted in 2012.

SPECIES	PROTECTION STATUS
PLANT	
▪ Coast violet (<i>Viola brittoniana</i>)	State Endangered
▪ Saltpond Grass (<i>Leptochloa fusca</i> ssp. <i>fascicularis</i>)	State Endangered
▪ Needlegrass (<i>Aristida longespica</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Orache (<i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i>)	State Special Concern
AVIAN	
▪ Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	Federal and State Threatened
▪ Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	State Endangered
▪ Pied-billed Grebe (<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>)	State Endangered
▪ American Bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)	State Endangered
▪ Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	State Endangered
▪ Blue-winged Teal (<i>Anas discors</i>)	State Threatened
▪ Great Egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	State Threatened
▪ Snowy Egret (<i>Egretta thula</i>)	State Threatened
▪ American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	State Threatened
▪ Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	State Threatened
▪ Least Tern (<i>Sternula antillarum</i>)	State Threatened
▪ Seaside Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>)	State Threatened
▪ Little-blue Heron (<i>Egretta caerulea</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ American Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Saltmarsh Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Bobolink (<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Eastern Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella magna</i>)	State Special Concern
INVERTEBRATE	
▪ Dune Sympistis (<i>Sympistis riparia</i>)	State Special Concern
▪ Mudflat Tiger Beetle (<i>Cicindela marginata</i>)	State Special Concern